

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims as set forth below.

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Previously presented) A surgical device for severing tissue, the surgical device comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

a hook member at the distal end of the shaft, the hook member configured to capture a vessel;

a sliding member movable with respect to the hook member from a first position to a second position and having a movable cutting blade housed therein, where the captured vessel is situated between the hook member and the cutting blade; and

at least one electrode, separate from the hook member and the cutting blade, for applying RF energy to cauterize the captured vessel.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 18, wherein the at least one electrode is two electrodes separated by a dielectric.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 18, wherein the hook member is at least partially slidingly disposed within the shaft.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) A surgical device for severing tissue, the surgical device comprising:

a plunger;

a hook member, the hook member and the plunger being movable relative to one another and configured to capture a vessel between the hook member and the plunger; and

a cutting blade slidingly disposed within the plunger to sever the captured vessel.